(d) if so, whether Government propose to consult all concerned industrialists/economists in this matter including political parties before signing the Dunkel draft or making any commitment with respect thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) It has reported that prominent citizens have written to the PM urging him to discuss the Dunkel draft in the winter session of Parliament since in their view acceptance of Uruguay Round results will lead to serious adverse repercussions on various sectors of the economy.

The letter has expressed concern regarding the un-satisfactory nature of the provisions of the Draft Final Act in the areas of TRIPs, Services and Textiles.

(c) and (d) Government is negotiating various Uruguay Round issues keeping in mind inputs received during consultations with industry associations, economists, political parties, and the discussions held in Parliament. A Government motion for a discussion on the implications of the Dunkel draft has also been admitted in the current session of Parliament. There have been differing views on the implications of the Dunkel draft. As regards the apprehension that acceptance of the provisions regarding intellectual property rights may harm production of critical items in the country, it is by now accepted by most trading nations that a system for the protection of intellectual property rights is needed as an incentive to encourage in ovative research and development effort essential for development. At the same time Government recognized that it is necessary to strike a balance between the rights of the LPR holder and the larger public interest.

Rising Prices of edible oil

*59. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the steadily rising prices of edible oil in the country; if so, what are the month-wise retail price of edible oil in 1993 as compared with 1992;

(b) whether Government have permitted the export of edible oil and oilseeds; if so, the quantity and value thereof in 1993; and

(c) what steps have been taken to protect the interests of the domestic consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) Monthwise retail prices of major edible oils namely groundnut oil and Mustard oil have been lower in 1993 as compared to 1992, except in the month of October in respect of groundnut oil prices at Bombay centre.

The monthwise retail prices of groundnut oil and mustard oil for 1992 and 1993 are annexed as a statement (*See* below).

(b) Government has permitted export of certain seeds such as safflower seed, sesame seed, mustard seed, etc. Recently export of edible oils (except groundnut oil) in consumer packs up to 5 Kgs has also been allowed.

The quantity and value of oilseeds exported in the financial year 1993-94 (till September 1993) are 44,331 MT and Rs. 76.50 crores respectively. (Source—Solvent Extractors Association of India). It is understood that export of edible oils namely mustard oil, sesame oil is yet to materialise.

(c) The quantity so far exported is too negligible to affect the interest of the domestic consumers. The Government will take appropriate steps as and when the situation demands to review the export of edible oils and oilseeds.

Statement

The Retail Prices of Edible Oils (Rs./Kg.)

	Groundnut Oil (Bombay)		Mustard Oil (Delhi)	
	1992	1993	1992	1993
January	41.00	34.00	34.00	28.00
February	40.00	32.00	30.00	28.00
March	40.00	32.00	30.00	26.00
April	38.00	32.00	30.00	28.00
May	38.00	32.00	30.00	27.00
June	38.00	34.00	30.00	30.00
July	40.00	36.00	32.50	30.00
August	40.00	38.00	33.00	31.00
September	40.00	40.00	33.00	31.00
October	38.00	42.00	31.00	31.00
November	38.00	38.00	30.00	30.00

Scheme to Operate Exit Policy

*60. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the scheme to operate the exit policy in public sector and joint sector undertakings, including the banks;

(b) what administrative and legislative provisions have been and are being made for implementing the same; and

(c) the total number of workers and employees exposed to exit policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) There is no policy in the Government which can be termed as "Exit Policy". Therefore scheme for operating "Exit Policy" does not arise.

The concerned legislative provisions are those contained in Chapter V B of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, that is "Special Provisions relating to Lay-off, Retrenchment and Closure in certain establishments".

There is no target or estimate as such of the number of workers and employees exposed to any "Exit Policy".

Ministry of Labour is formulating a new Industrial Relations Law with the objective of increasing productivity, generating employment and establishing harmonious industrial relations.

Consumer Redressal fora in the capital

245. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge backlog of cases in the consumer redressal fora;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of redressal fora in the capital; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?